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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,853	06/19/2000	Sho Kou	SONY-50N3456.01	4217

7590 08/30/2007
Wagner Murabito & Hao LLP
Third Floor
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San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER

VU, NGOC K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/596,853	Applicant(s) KOU, SHO	
	Examiner Ngoc K. Vu	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 32-42 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to the admitted prior art. Rejections based on the admitted prior art below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 32-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by admitted prior art (at pages 2-4 and page 7, lines 2-4 of specification filed 6/19/2000).

Regarding claim 32, the admitted prior art teaches an electronic system (digital television receiving system) comprising: a first device (e.g., tuner) for accessing a multimedia bit stream; a second device (e.g., controller) coupled to said first device and for generating a command requesting a table describing information in said multimedia bit stream (p. 7, lines 2-4; p. 3, lines 1-7), said command (see FIG. 1) comprising: a plurality of attribute fields (e.g., 260) comprising: a table field for specifying a table identifier (e.g., table_id 262); and a multi-purpose field (e.g., 264-271) for specifying a select attribute related to a requested table; and a flag field (e.g., 251) for identifying said select attribute from a plurality of attributes held by said multi-purpose field; and in response to receiving said command, wherein said first device is operable to: determine if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table (e.g., RRT); determine if said flag field indicates an event information table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event information table (e.g., EIT); and determine if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose

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field to provide said extended text table (e.g., ETT) (see p. 3, line 19 to p. 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 33, the admitted prior art further teaches that wherein said first device comprises a tuner for receiving and decoding a digital television signal (p. 3, lines 1-5; p. 7, lines 2-4).

Regarding claim 34, the admitted prior art further teaches that said second device comprises a controller for issuing commands to said first device and processing information received from said first device (p. 3, lines 1-5; p. 7, lines 2-4).

Regarding claim 35, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said second device is operable to set a flag indicating said table field is valid (since the second device issues the command – p. 3, lines 12-14).

Regarding claim 36, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said second device is further operable to set a value in said table field (since the second device issues the command – p. 3, lines 12-14).

Regarding claim 37, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said first device is further operable to provide a table identified by said table identifier in said table field if said flag field (e.g., table_id) indicates a table identification is requested (p. 3, lines 1-5 and 19-21).

Regarding claim 38, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said second device is further operable to set said flag field to specify which one of the plurality of attributes said multi-purpose field holds (since the second device issues the command - p. 3, lines 9-17).

Regarding claim 39, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said command is a direct select data command (p. 3, lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 40, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said multi-purpose field is for specifying an attribute for one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table (p. 3, lines 9-11 and p. 3, line 19 to p. 4, line 7).

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Regarding claim 41, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said table identifier is operable to specify at least one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table (p. 3, lines 9-11 and p. 3, line 19 to p. 4, line 7).

Regarding claim 42, the admitted prior art teaches that wherein said plurality of attribute fields relate to at least one of programming information, rating information related to at least one geographic region, and an extended text message related to said bit stream (p. 3, lines 9-11 and p. 3, line 19 to p. 4, line 7).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schneidewend (US 6,529,526 B1) teaches a controller processing system timing information and program specific information and performing the control functions required in operating a decoder.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-7306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ngoc Vu/
NGOC K. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2623

August 23, 2007